



# The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 30

June 2006

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Office of Special Services has completed 52 School Support Team (SST) reviews over the last three years. The visits have provided schools on Improvement the focus, guidance and support they need to move forward.

The Title I School Improvement Grant will again be offered for the 2006-2007 school year. All schools on Improvement are eligible for the grant; however, due to limited funding, awards will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Funding for the grant is disseminated in two parts. An initial amount of \$50,000 is granted to fund a SST review of the school program. The remaining funds (approximately \$25,000) will be awarded to the school to support a debriefing of the report with school staff, planning and initial implementation of short-term recommendations.

Schools will then receive an additional grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in June 2007 to address the major areas of need as identified by the external review.

An informational booklet, *Title I School Improvement Grant: A Simple Explanation and How-To*, is available at [www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp\\_tia.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp).

For more information or if the district would like to commit to an SST review for the fall contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675, [hensinger\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us).

## Title I Participation in a Response to Intervention Model

### What is Response to Intervention (RTI)?

RTI refers to a comprehensive student-centered assessment and intervention concept that has generated several models used in schools. RTI models focus on identifying and addressing student's difficulties by using effective, efficient instruction leading to improved achievement.

### How Can Title I Be Involved?

The key component in answering this question is whether the school is targeted assistance or schoolwide. The Title I regulations vary dramatically for each of these two models.

**Schoolwide Programs** – In a Title I schoolwide program, all resources, services, and personnel are blended to have a cohesive program that upgrades the educational opportunities for all students in the school. Therefore, if the school adopts a RTI methodology, then obviously Title I would be an integral part of the process. Any activity would be allowable as long as it is addressed in the Title I schoolwide plan.

**Targeted Assistance Programs** – Staff in a targeted assistance program are encouraged to collaborate whenever possible in the RTI process. However, certain regulations must be adhered to for the purposes of meeting targeted assistance requirements:

- ✓ Title I teachers target identified Title I students whose parents have given permission to participate in the program.
- ✓ Title I students must receive primary instruction from the classroom teacher as well as additional/supplemental instruction from Title I teachers.

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- ✓ Title I services cannot replace classroom instruction, but instead must add more instruction time
- ✓ Title I teachers can only teach whole classrooms or non-title I students on an incidental or demonstration basis.

The following outlines opportune ways for Title I staff in a targeted assistance program to collaborate and participate in the RTI process:

- Assessment – All staff (Regular Ed, Special Ed, Title I) can work together collaboratively to screen students to pinpoint those who are struggling and are in need of additional services.
- Share Resources – Classroom, Title I, and special education resources can be shared to maximize the amount of materials, supplies, books, etc. available to assist students.
- Co-sponsor Professional Development – Schools can use a cost-share approach to bring in high quality professional development for all staff. Funds can be pooled to obtain professional development in using scientifically based research strategies and programs. Funds would need to be prorated so that they are equitable to the Title I program.
- Communicate/Joint Planning – An effective RTI model is dependent on a strong instructional leader (i.e., building principal) who will facilitate and stress the importance of ongoing communication and joint planning opportunities.

One tremendous benefit of using the RTI model is that struggling readers are not only the responsibility of a resources specialist; rather, all teachers (classroom, special education, Title I) draw upon their professional knowledge and skills to ensure that even the most struggling reader receives a quality instructional program that will help the student succeed. For more information on the Response to Intervention Model visit [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/RTI.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/RTI.asp)

## LEARN AND SERVE COLORADO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Learn and Serve Colorado has just released its 2006-2009 Local Education Agency Implementation Grants & SAGE Grants.

The purpose of these grants is to provide support for the implementation of LEA-wide programs that combine learning and community service. This approach to education and youth development, called service-learning, engages youth in meeting pressing community needs while they develop leadership, civic competencies, and other skills.

The following two grants are available:

**Implementation:** LEA Implementation Grants will focus on school districts with high disadvantaged youth populations to increase quality and reach of service-learning in Colorado, increase the impact of service-learning on K-12 academic achievement, and increase the impact of service-learning on the civic engagement of students and communities.

**Service-learning and Geographic Engagement (SAGE):** LSC has developed the SAGE Initiative with the goal of integrating research and best practices in the fields of community mapping, geography, cultural dynamics, and service-learning to support local school systems to increase their capacity to expand civic engagement and participation for all students. Because this grant is competitive at the national level, State level funding for this grant is not guaranteed; federal announcement of the grant award will take place June 12th, at which time notification of funds available will be sent to all LEAs.

For additional information please contact:

Garth Schaefer, Director  
Learn and Serve Colorado  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 East Colfax Avenue #406  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-6867  
Website: [www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning](http://www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7<sup>th</sup>

Annual Standards and Assessment Conference  
Keystone

For more information visit

[www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm) or  
contact Lisa May at [may\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:may_l@cde.state.co.us).

July 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

The Culture of Childhood Summer Symposium  
Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge

For more information visit

[www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm) or  
contact Juanita Kirkpatrick at (303) 866-6629.

July 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

Coaching for Success: Tools that Work

Regis University

For more information call (303) 458-4349 or email  
[edmaster@regis.edu](mailto:edmaster@regis.edu)

July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Summer Leadership Training

presented by CCSSO and Survey of Enacted  
Curriculum Collaborative in Boulder

August

The Colorado Family Literacy Consortium has  
scheduled two National Center for Family Literacy  
(NCFL)'s *Foundations in Family Literacy* trainings

August 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> in Delta

[www.coloradoliteracy.net/trwestcentral.html](http://www.coloradoliteracy.net/trwestcentral.html)

August 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Colorado Springs

[www.coloradoliteracy.net/trpikespeak.html](http://www.coloradoliteracy.net/trpikespeak.html)



- The following desk review indicator is due by June 30, 2006.

### **TIA – 2.1: LEA Plan – Needs Assessment**

Evidence demonstrates that the LEA plan was developed in consultation with teachers, principals, administrators (including those in programs served by Title I, Part A), and other appropriate school personnel, and with parents of children in schools served under Title I, Part A.

**Evidence:** Written process for plan development and meeting minutes or agendas.

- Districts with schools potentially entering into Year 1 or Year 2 Improvement must submit a draft of its School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) notification to parents to Laura Hensinger [hensinger\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us) by June 30<sup>th</sup>. For districts with schools that were required to offer choice or SES last year, the letters were reviewed and approved and do not need to be resubmitted.
- The Consolidated Federal Programs Application is due June 30, 2006. The application is available at [www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp). Call the helpline at (303) 866-4814 for assistance with the application.
- Any Year 2 carryover for the 2004-2005 Title I School Improvement Grant must be submitted for approval to the school's Title I Liaison by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Schools with 2005-2006 Title I School Improvement Grant must submit the Year 2 plan to their Title I Liaison on or before August 4<sup>th</sup>. Year 1 funds must be spent by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Any carryover should be approved by the school's Title I Liaison.

# Attention Charter Schools: Charter School Support Initiative *Request for Applications*



The Schools of Choice Unit is accepting applications for charter schools interested in receiving a School Support visit.

## Eligibility

Charter schools must be at least in their second year of operation and be willing to undergo a School Support visit if they have not already done so within the last two years. Each charter school that is selected must agree to have their governing board sign a commitment form, which details the charter school's responsibility as well as CDE's responsibility in this initiative. Selected schools may be dropped from participation at any time, at the Charter School Support Initiative (CSSI) Advisory Team's sole discretion.

## Services Provided Through the Program

Selected charter schools currently receiving start-up or implementation grant funds from the Schools of Choice Unit will receive an additional \$10,000 to cover the cost associated with the visit. Selected charter schools without an open grant will allocate \$5,000 towards the cost of the visit with the Schools of Choice Unit matching \$5,000 from administrative funds (contingent upon CDE receiving adequate 2006-07 federal funding).

In addition the Schools of Choice Unit will provide consultants to advise selected charter schools on how to implement School Support Visit findings. Services will be tailored to address the unique needs of the charter school.

## Request for Applications

Each applicant must address the following issues in relation to this project in sequential order:

- school readiness
- sustainability over time
- leadership qualities currently in place
- the ability to leverage this initiative
- school needs
- a description of the current professional development plan

A letter from the school's lead administrator and a letter from the charter school governing board must accompany the application. Applications must be single-spaced, in 12 pt font and may not exceed 10 pages. Applications may only be submitted as a Word or PDF document attached to email sent to [stegall\\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:stegall_c@cde.state.co.us) by 10 a.m. on September 1, 2006. For more information or questions, contact Denise Mund at (303) 866-6740 or [mund\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:mund_d@cde.state.co.us).

## **How are funds generated for private schools?**

The LEA reserves an amount of funds for the private school children equal to the PPA multiplied by the number of low-income private school students in the area.

## **Which private schools students are eligible to receive benefits?**

Student eligibility for Title I services for private school children is determined by (1) residence in participating public school attendance area, and (2) educational need.

## **Which students are eligible to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES)?**

All low-income students attending a school on Year 2 Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring are eligible for SES. If district funds do not cover all of the tutoring requests then the district may rank by academic need.

## **Could a district choose to use only free lunch when determining attendance area and schools to be served?**

Yes. It is a more restrictive measure of poverty much like the census data. However, districts do not need to use both free and reduced lunch counts if they so choose. Regardless, the process used to determine attendance area must be consistently applied to all schools. Choosing to solely use free lunch will likely reduce the number of schools that must be served because of the 75% poverty rule.

***SAVE THE DATE***

**Title I Director's Meeting  
Metro Area  
Week of September 10, 2006  
Location and Time TBD**



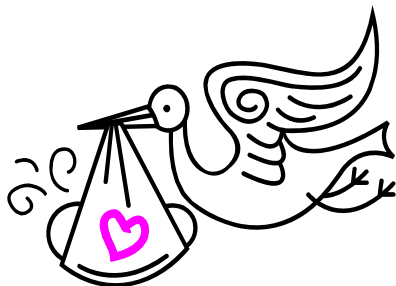
The NCLB Committee of Practitioners (CoP) has the following vacancies:

- Teacher
- Charter School
- SPED representative
- ELL Advisory Committee Representative
- SW representative
- SE representative

If you are interested in being a member of the CoP or have any recommendations for new members, contact Trish Boland at [boland\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:boland_t@cde.state.co.us) or visit [www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia\\_cop.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia_cop.asp) for a nomination form.

### Improve Educational Outcomes for Homeless and Highly Mobile Students

The National Center for School Engagement is currently recruiting teams in Colorado for Web-based Professional Development (WBPD), which begins in August 2006. The WBPD project is an on-line educational forum uniting teams of three members around a school/community impacted by issues of homeless and highly mobile students. Together they work within the web-based national network to study and build new educational practices geared toward achieving positive student level outcomes for these students. Applications for the 2006-2007 school year are due by June 15, 2006. For more information about the project and an application visit [www.schoolengagement.org/index.cfm/WBPD](http://www.schoolengagement.org/index.cfm/WBPD).



**Alyssa and Jake Pearson welcomed  
Penelope Violet  
to the world on May 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Everyone is happy and healthy.**

**Alyssa will be on maternity leave until August.  
Feel free to contact any other Title J Consultant  
with your questions. For AYP questions contact  
Russ Masco at (303) 866-6306.**

# Congratulations

The Colorado Department of Education had excess Title I, Part A funds that needed to be dispersed and spent by August 31, 2006. The Title I, Part A Funds Reallocated Summer 2006 Grant was made available to any district that had experienced a decline in Title I, Part A funds for the previous two years. Through this grant, CDE was able to assist needy districts in administering summer school programs, providing necessary professional development and enhancing their overall Title I program. Congratulations to the following districts:

Alamosa School District  
Arriba-Flagler CSD 20  
Aspen  
Bennett 29J  
Briggsdale RE-10J  
Buena Vista School District R-31  
Clear Creek School District RE-1  
Durango 9-R  
Eaton RE-2  
Elbert County SD C-2  
Englewood Schools  
Fowler District R4J  
Garfield RE-2  
Kiowa School District RE-1  
La Veta RE-2  
Manitou Springs School District  
Northeast BOCES  
North Park R1  
Park 3 Estes Park  
Platte Canyon School District  
Prairie Weld RE-11  
Sanford 6J  
San Luis Valley BOCES  
Sheridan School District  
Weldon Valley RE-20J

Colorado Department of Education  
Office of Special Services  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450  
Denver, CO 80202-5149



**Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us) for a copy.**

**Concerns!!**

**Questions??**

**Comments**

*Do you want to be on the mailing list?*

**Contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or [hensinger\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us)**